

**Standing Committee of the
Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki**

Minutes

of a meeting held on 14 August 2019
by video conference at Charlotte Brown House, Tikituterangi House and Zoom

Present:

**Bishop and
Chairperson**

The Most Reverend Philip Richardson

Vicar General

The Venerable Trevor Harrison

Clergy

The Venerable Malcolm French
The Reverend Julian Perkins
The Venerable Canon Pat Scaife
The Reverend Dr Jekheli Singh
The Reverend Chee Yong

Laity

Ms Mary Bourke
Mrs Sue MacLean

In Attendance:

Diocesan Registrar/Manager

Mr Simon Cayley

Minutes Secretary

Mrs Pip Harrison

Trust Management Ltd

Ms Anne Edwards

The meeting opened at 6 pm. The Most Reverend Philip Richardson **welcomed** members of Standing Committee and those attending.

Opening Prayer: The Reverend Julian Perkins

Bible study: The Venerable Canon Pat Scaife led a reflection on the Magnificat (Luke 1: 46-55) using the African method, it being the eve of the celebration of St Mary's Assumption.

Apologies: Canon Dr Bryan Bang, Canon Robin Brockie, Mrs Elizabeth Bang.

Motion: That the apologies be sustained.

Carried

Confirmation of Minutes:

Motion: That the Minutes of the meeting of 22 June 2019 be approved as a true and correct record.

Carried

Matters Arising:

Diocesan Database

Mr Simon Cayley reported that projected surpluses for the year and a \$10,000 bequest from The Reverend Bruce and Mrs Lola Cockburn, would make the first phase of the database possible. The Finance and Audit Committee had interrogated the project, the first phase of which would produce a useful data base as a stand-alone project. Phase 2 would add refinements to this at a later date.

Ratification of email decision:

SC.681: Diocesan Database

That Standing Committee gives its approval to proceed with Phase 1 at a cost of \$16,000.

**Bourke/French
Carried**

The appreciation of Standing Committee and the diocese for the lives and gift of the Cockburns was recorded.

Finance

Ms Anne Edwards highlighted elements in the report on Standing Committee finances for the two months to June 2019, which showed a very good financial position. Income included a second bequest, accrued funding for archdeacon resourcing from St John and no support to parishes being required in this period. This meant a surplus of \$12,000 was recorded. Cash flow was also looking good. The Episcopal Account was also making good steps towards being self-sustaining. Six parishes currently had an issue with finances. The Archbishop suggested that Bishop's staff be proactive in dealing with these parishes, possibly using the missional approach already used with various parishes.

The Archbishop commented how useful it was to have this information before the situation was too bad and Ms Anne Edwards said it was pleasing to see that parishes that had earlier signalled problems had now turned the corner. The Archbishop asked that she thank Ms Grace Sun for her work on the report.

Items for discussion:

Trustee Declarations over and above those recorded previously: none.

Health and Safety

Earthquake risk assessments were still progressing.

Risk

Mr Simon Cayley reported that computer upgrade work had lowered the risk of future ransom-wear attack.

Finance and Audit

Motion: That the Minutes from the August 2019 meeting of the Finance and Audit Committee be received.

Carried

2020 Budget

Ms Anne Edwards reported that the Finance and Audit Committee had agreed to a proposed budget with the small surplus of \$10,000. The change in assessment method for the Co-operating Ventures (still under national discussion with UCANZ but being implemented nonetheless) was the issue that would have the greatest impact on diocesan finances in the coming year. This was true for some parishes more than others. The Archbishop asked if one-off income amounts were the reason for the Cathedral and Cambridge bearing a large burden in meeting the additional costs. The Venerable Malcolm French said it was more the 20% increase in giving from the recent stewardship campaign. He commented that, while there was a point to be made about the UCANZ situation elsewhere, the proportionality of the assessment system meant that those who had the most paid the most and this was fair.

The Reverend Chee Yong suggested the Anglican parishes involved in UCANZ ventures should meet at some point to consider a way forward.

The Archbishop reported he had requested a Heads of Churches meeting to discuss the situation. Each parish's trust deed was different, so a case by case basis would be needed, if withdrawal were being considered. The Reverend Chee Yong reported on what was being considered in his area.

Ms Mary Bourke said the discussion of assessments at Synod should be kept as a separate issue from the Budget – it could be a distraction. Mr Simon Cayley agreed, even though the assessments were a major part of the picture. The Venerable Malcolm French suggested a presentation on the UCANZ situation be made before the Budget. The Archbishop agreed that would be useful and suggested including it in the Road Map update at the start of Synod and this was agreed.

The Budget had been approved for presentation by email before the meeting.

(Ms Anne Edwards left the meeting.)

Conflict of Interest

The Parish of Hillcrest's letter concerning the issue of not employing members of a governing body, since it posed a conflict of interest, was discussed. Ms Mary Bourke suggested parishes in this position could appoint such people as advisors or ex-officio members for vestry, which would work if there were enough other members of vestry to fulfil the statute. They would not have voting rights but would be able to share expertise. It would appear UCANZ also needed to be told of the Charities Commission's ruling on this. The Archbishop said there was some work being done on a possible new model for areas where ministry units were short of vestry members. It was agreed the Diocesan Registrar-Manager would write to Hillcrest on the matter.

Manager's Report

Mr Simon Cayley spoke to his report and raised the matter of Standing Committee's **Strategic Planning** and suggested it should be scheduled after the Synod with a view to preventing Standing Committee being merely reactive. The Venerable Malcolm French suggested Senior Staff needed to do a similar exercise, possibly with Standing Committee. Ms Mary Bourke said all involved should be

in the room along with an able facilitator. The Archbishop said there had previously been a Planning Chapter involving Standing Committee, the Trusts and the Senior Staff and this seemed to be a good combination.

Mr Simon Cayley also raised the matter of **slow decision-making**. He wondered if too many decisions were held at church government level rather than being delegated to management level within agreed guidelines (Strategic Guidelines and Budget). The Venerable Pat Scaife said the statutes might need to be changed to allow this. Mr Cayley said there might be practical systems to put in place within what was already on the statutes. He offered to look at past decisions as examples and see if there could have been any alternative decision-making pathways available and this offer was welcomed.

Mrs Mary Bourke asked if the report from the Episcopal Commission was ready. The Archbishop reported that it was due by the end of the week.

(7.40 pm - Mr Simon Cayley left the meeting.)

Petition for a Faculty for the Sale of the Church at Matiere

The Archbishop reported that he was satisfied that the church at Matiere was not needed for present or future ministry. The Standing Committee's responsibility was to see that there was a financial proposal in place.

SC.682: Sale of the St Michael's Church at Matiere

That the sale of the church at Matiere be approved.

Bourke/MacLean

Carried

9 Items for Information

- **Tikanga Giving** for the Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki, June 2019.
- **Detailed Seismic Assessment on St Cuthbert's Church, Manaia**
The report raised a number of questions, which Canon Peter Barleyman would raise with the assessor. There was also a discussion being held with the Methodist Church as to the state of the Methodist church in Manaia and whether it would work for the two congregations to join together in the most viable building.
- **Minutes of the August meetings of the Combined Diocesan Trust Boards.**

The Archbishop thanked the members of Standing Committee for their service and hoped members would put themselves forward again, as continuity would be particularly useful at this stage of the Diocese's life.

The meeting closed at 7.48 pm.

Date of the next meeting: to be confirmed post-Synod.